

Painkillers may reduce effectiveness of vaccines

The intake of painkillers at the time of vaccination may reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine, suggests a new study.

When a person is vaccinated, the goal is to produce as many antibodies as possible to effectively neutralise the infection, reported science portal EurekAlert.

To do this, white blood cells (B cells) that form a component of the blood and help defend the body against infections spring into action to produce the antibodies.

B cells also serve as the immune system's memory for future protection against the illness.

But Richard P. Phipps and colleagues at University of Rochester discovered that when a person took painkillers, the drug also reduces the ability of B cells to make antibodies.

Their findings were based on laboratory studies of blood samples from people who participated in early clinical trials for the human papillomaviruses (HPV) vaccine. HPV is a common cause of various sexually transmitted infections.

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